

In the claims:

1. In a radio communication system having a network part at which a network-copy database is maintained and a mobile node at which a mobile-copy database is maintained, an improvement of apparatus for initiating a synchronization session by which to synchronize
5 values of fields formed at the network-copy and the mobile-copy, respectively, of the database, said apparatus comprising:

a session state information generator embodied at least at a selected one of the network part and the mobile node, said session state generator for forming at least a first session state information value identifying a synchronization state of the at least the selected one of the
10 network part and the mobile node at which the session state generator is embodied, indications of the at least the first session state information value communicated between the network part and the mobile node to initiate the synchronization session.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the at least the first session state information
15 value formed by said session state information generator comprises a session identification value, the session identification value identifying a sequential number of prior synchronization sessions initiated by the selected one of the network part and the mobile node at which said session state information generator is embodied.

20 3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the at least the first session state information value formed by said session state information generator comprises an expected-session identification value, the expected-session identification value identifying a next-expected number of sessions initiated by an other of the selected one of the network part and the mobile node at which said session state information generator is embodied.

25 4. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a datagram formatter coupled to said session state initiation generator, said datagram formatter for formatting a datagram between the network part and the mobile node pursuant to the synchronization session, the datagram formatted by said datagram formatter including a session-state field, the session state field

populated with values of the at least the first session state information value generated by said session state initiation generator.

5 5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the datagram formatted by said datagram
formatter comprises a header field and wherein said session-state field forms part of the header
field.

10 6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first session state information value is of a
first range of values when said session state information generator is embodied at the network
part and wherein the first session state information value is of a second range of values when
said session state information value is of a second range of values when said session state
information generator is embodied at the mobile node.

15 7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the first range of values comprise positive-
valued values and wherein the second range of values comprise negative-valued values.

20 8. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the at least the first session state information
value identifies a synchronization session between the network part and the mobile node,
initiated by the network part.

 9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the network part comprises a synchronization
server and wherein said session state information generator is embodied at the synchronization
server.

25 10. The apparatus of claim 4 further comprising a session state information detector
embodied at least at a remaining one of the network part and the mobile node, said session state
information detector for detecting the at least the first session state information value generated
by said session state information generator embodied at the selected one of the network part and
the mobile node subsequent to communication of the datagram containing the first session state
30 information value to the remaining one of the network part and the mobile node.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said session state information detector comprises a session-state field value extractor, said session state field value extractor for extracting the values of the at least the first session-state information value populating the
5 session state field of the datagram.

12. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the datagram formatted by said datagram pursuant to the synchronization session formatter comprises a first datagram and at least a second datagram and wherein said datagram formatter formed of said session state initiation
10 generator formats the first session state information value into each of the first and at least second datagrams.

13. In a method of communicating in a radio communication system having a network part at which a network-copy database is maintained and a mobile node at which a mobile-copy
15 database is maintained, an improvement of a method for initiating a synchronization session by which to synchronize values of fields formed at the network-copy and the mobile-copy, respectively, of the database, said method comprising:

forming at least a first session state information value at least at a selected one of the network part and the mobile node, the first session state information value identifying a
20 synchronization state of the at least the selected one of the network part and the network part at which the first session state information value is formed; and

sending the at least the first session state information value to a remaining one of the network part and the mobile node to inform the remaining one of the network part and the mobile node of the synchronization state of the selected one of the network part and the mobile
25 node.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the first session state information value formed during said operation of forming comprises a session identification value, the session identification value identifying a sequential number of prior synchronization sessions

initiated by the selected one of the network part and the mobile node at which the session identifier value is formed.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the at least the first session state information value formed during said operation of forming further comprises an expected-session identification value identifying a next-expected number of sessions initiated by an other of the selected one of the network part and the mobile node.

16. The method of claim 13 further comprising the operation, prior to said operation of sending, of formatting a datagram, the datagram including a session-state field, the session-state field populated with values of the at least the first session state value formed during said operation of forming.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the datagram formatted during said operation of formatting includes a header field and wherein the session-state field forms part of the header field.

18. The method of claim 13 wherein the first session state information value is of a first range of values when the first session state information value is formed at the network part and wherein the first session state information value is of a second range of values when the first session state information value is formed at the mobile node.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein the first range of values comprise positive-valued values and wherein the second range of values comprise negative-valued values.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the at least the first session state information value identifies a synchronization session between the network part and the mobile node, initiated by the network part.